

for its recent decision to open a U.S. Embassy in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Indeed, the investment of Federal funds and State Department personnel for representation in the small African country may pay huge dividends in the form of American lives saved and U.S. national interests protected.

According to the State Department, over 1,500 Americans live and work in Equatorial Guinea—primarily in the oil industry. Additionally, U.S. investment in Equatorial Guinea is over \$5 billion. As the U.S. presence increases, it is critical that the U.S. provide services and assistance to our citizens. For example, in the case of a natural disaster, access to American embassy officials who can serve as liaisons between Americans and the local hospital could mean the difference between life and death for those Americans caught in the country during the emergency. Also, maintaining a U.S. embassy in Equatorial Guinea would allow U.S. businesses to explore future investment opportunities in the country. Such investments would be important for a region which is struggling to build economic stability for the long term.

**DR. HELLER NAMED FIRST DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to advise my colleagues that Dr. Barbara R. Heller, a former constituent, and friend, who served in my office as a legislative fellow, will leave her position as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She will be accepting a position as the first Executive Director of the newly formed Center for Health Workforce Development and the first Rauschenbach Distinguished Professor, an endowed professorship dedicated to the improvement of nursing and nursing education.

A nationally and internationally known nursing educator, Dr. Heller will leave behind a significant legacy after twelve years of visionary leadership at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. During her tenure, the school has received four consecutive top 10 rankings by U.S. News & World Report, moved into a new state of the art nursing school building, and raised nearly \$10 million for Maryland's premier public institution.

The State of Maryland has been the beneficiary of Dr. Heller's energy and commitment to the School's mission of community service. Since 1990, the school has developed a new model of clinical instruction and health care service, resulting in five Wellmobiles, 14 school-based wellness centers, a high school based family support center, the Open Gates Health Center, as well as the Pediatric Ambulatory Care Center, which serves our most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Heller's leadership has transformed the School of Nursing into a nationally recognized center of excellence. She has recruited prominent nurse researchers and scientists, resulting in a 900% increase in grants and contract awards for the School of Nursing. During a critical period of the national nursing shortage, the School of Nursing has also seen increases

in both enrollment and diversity due to aggressive strategies of outreach, enhanced scholarship support, marketing and student recruitment. In fact, the School's minority student population has more than doubled in the past dozen years, from 15% to 35%.

On June 20, 2002, Maryland elected officials, University officials, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends will honor Dr. Barbara Heller for her many years of leadership. I Join them in saluting her for her critical role in preparing nurses for the 21st century.

**HONORING NATIONAL HISTORY CONTEST WINNERS**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege when I have the opportunity to recognize a young person for a special accomplishment. Today, I feel especially fortunate to acknowledge a group of students who have used their talents to explore a wide variety of historical issues.

I want to congratulate eight young women from the Fourth District of Minnesota who have embraced the subject of history and taken it one step further. These students not only participated in this year's National History Day competition, but also came away with national prizes. These bright, ambitious students worked as true historians in creating their projects—they were actual documentarians, playwrights, researchers, and curators. They applied what they learned in the classroom and used it in a real world setting.

Anna Rice, a tenth grader from Central High School in St. Paul, took the prestigious Grand Prize in the National History Day competition by submitting a top-notch research paper. Anna should be very proud to be recognized as the Nation's top young historical writer.

Caitlyn Ngam and Madeline Kreider, eighth graders from Capitol Hill Magnet School in St. Paul, won third place for their outstanding exhibit on tobacco reform. Their fellow classmates, Kirsten Slungaard and Meredith Pain, earned seventh place for their exceptional documentary on Tibet.

Melissa Brown, Kaitie Cochrane and Lindsey Jans, seventh graders from Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake, walked away with a national prize for their performance of "Separate But Equal: Brown v. Board of Education." These students also had the honor of performing their project at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

I am very proud of all the students who participated in this year's contest. The time and dedication they have committed to their projects should be commended. It is wonderful that these eight students received special recognition for their work. The fact that they were singled out among over half a million participants nationwide is astonishing.

I will continue to lend my support to this important competition. Events such as the National History Day Contest not only give young people a chance to shine, but allows them to use their talents and creativity to make a difference in their communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. ALMA V. WHITE OF GARY, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on occasion, I am fortunate enough to come to the floor to congratulate a person who has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of others. Today, I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Alma V. White of Gary, Indiana, as she retires from her position as Assistant Director of the Lake County Department of Family and Children, after serving more than 18 years in that position and 48 years in service to the residents of Lake County. Her presence in the discipline of social services will not be easily replaced. Throughout her life, Mrs. White has helped many of the less fortunate in her community overcome their difficult circumstances.

In addition to her career in public service, Mrs. White has also been involved with numerous community organizations. She is a member of Grace United Methodist Church, as well as such noble organizations as the American Red Cross and the National Council of Negro Women, among many others. Mrs. White's commitment to her community has consistently earned the praise of her peers. She has been named "Woman of the Year" three times by the Gary Business and Professional Women Organization and has received numerous other awards of achievement throughout her exceptional career.

Amidst the celebration of her career, there is sadness that the services of such a great woman will be unable to be matched in the future of the Department of Family and Social Services. Not only does Mrs. White diligently work to provide for the needs of her community, but she also cares about the vital issues that she encounters on a daily basis. This combination of commitment and compassion distinguishes Mrs. White from her stellar colleagues, and the people of Lake County are fortunate to have such a devoted individual working on their behalf. Her services to the Lake County Division of Family and Social Services will be sorely missed.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Mrs. White will continue to serve her community for many years to come. It cannot be disputed that Mrs. White has improved the lives of countless people. This is the mark of a true public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all of my colleagues will join with me in congratulating Mrs. Alma White for her 48 years of distinguished service and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. Although she may be retiring from the Division of Family and Children, the residents of Lake County will continue to reap the rewards of her benevolent spirit.

**WAR CLOUDS GATHERING IN SOUTH ASIA**

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the danger of war in South Asia concerns us all.